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SENSITIVE
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USAID/ME, STATE FOR USTR, ALSO FOR F, NEA AND EB

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/08/2019

TAGS: [ETRD](#) [ECON](#) [PREL](#) [EFIN](#) [EAID](#) [EG](#)

SUBJECT: RACHID REVIEWS TRADE TIES, UPCOMING TRIP TO U.S. REF: A. CAIRO 1793 B. CAIRO 1550 C. CAIRO 1522 Classified By: Ambassador Margaret Scc 1. (SBU) Key Points: -- Minister of Trade Rachid plans to spend November 17-19 in Washington and New York and hopes to meet with USTR Kirk and S

- ¶2. (SBU) The Ambassador and Minister of Trade and Industry (MOTI) Rachid Rachid met September 29 to discuss his upcoming trip to the U.S., now
¶3. (SBU) Rachid explained that the postponement of his U.S. trip originally scheduled for early November was due to the timing of two other ev
¶4. (SBU) Rachid noted that he had met September 28 with the Egyptian membership of the proposed Business Leaders Forum (BLF) (ref. b) and adde
¶5. (SBU) Rachid touched briefly on the lack of progress on expanding Qualified Industrial Zones (QIZ) to Upper Egypt, specifically the current
¶6. (SBU) The Ambassador asked for the MOTI's initial opinion of the latest USTR draft work plan for the Strategic Economic Partnership. Rachid
¶7. (SBU) Rachid said that given the impact of the global financial crisis, deficit spending, and other issues before the Congress, he expected
¶8. (SBU) The Ambassador advised that, due to a recent change in regulations governing commodity purchases through Cash Transfer Programs, it i
¶9. (SBU) Comment: USAID has funds to enable the USG to provide much of the assistance that MOTI is requesting, both from existing programs as
¶10. (SBU) With respect to internal markets, USAID will be able to help the GOE strengthen governance laws and procedures, making it easier for
¶11. (C) Rachid has been persistent in pressing for greater U.S. engagement on bilateral trade, his planned visit to the U.S. being his next ef